

3. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium comprising:

a readout layer, which has an in-plane magnetization at room temperature range, and which changes to a perpendicular magnetization in a temperature range above room temperature;

a recording layer having a perpendicular magnetization in a temperature range between room temperature and its Curie temperature; and wherein the [reproducing] readout layer is [magnetically] magnetostatically coupled to the recording layer by [magnetostatic coupling] the presence of a magnetostatic coupler.

REMARKS

As discussed in an interview with the Examiner on October 10, 2001, the foregoing amendment recites in claim 3 that the readout and recording layers are magnetostatically coupled by the presence of a "magnetostatic coupler". As explained in the interview and in the previous response, magnetostatic coupling between layers requires the presence of a magneto-static coupler to disrupt exchange coupling. Such a magneto-static coupler can include an oxidized interface between the readout and recording layers, the presence of impurities between the readout and recording layers, discontinuities at such interface, an intermediate dielectric layer or any other appropriate moiety to disrupt exchange coupling.

The phrase "the reproducing layer" has been amended to read "the readout layer" to be consistent.

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed. A magneto-static coupler is disclosed at least at col. 6, lines 11-12 and col. 4, lines